## How to Stop Child Abuse in a Public Place

It can be very uncomfortable to watch the mistreatment of a child by an adult out of control. Fortunately, there are things you can do to help...

• Strike up a conversation with the adult to direct attention away from the child. Say something like:

"She seems to be trying your patience."

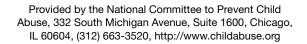
"My child has gotten upset like that, too."

"He has beautiful (eyes)."

This may help the parent get in a positive mood.

"Children can wear you out, can't they? Is there anything I can do to help?"

- Divert the child's attention (if misbehaving) by talking to the child.
- Praise the child and parent at the first opportunity.
- If the child is in danger, offer assistance. For example, if the child is left unattended in a grocery cart, stand by the child until the parent returns.
- Avoid negative remarks or looks. These reactions are likely to increase the parent's anger and could make matters worse





For more Fact Sheets please go to www.ParentHelpNH.org